

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00072 021442Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 INT-05 COME-00 DHA-02 IO-10 SIL-01

LAB-04 FEAE-00 EUR-12 OES-05 CIEP-02 OMB-01 IGA-02

AID-05 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /133 W

----- 089914

P 021259Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3151

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0072

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB,IN,US

SUBJECT: MINE DISASTER: PRESS REPORTS

1. NEWS OF THE CHASNALA MINE DISASTER REPORTED BY THE HINDUSTAN TIMES AS THE WORST EVER IN INDIA'S COAL MINING HISTORY CONTINUES TO GET FRONT PAGE COVERAGE IN INDIA'S NEWSPAPERS.

2. THE PATRIOT HEADLINE ARTICLE "DEWATERING OPERATIONS TO BE SPEEDED UP, SOVIET, POLISH EXPERTS, PUMPS AT CHASNALA". IT SAYS THAT "WITH THE HELP OF LOCALLY ACQUIRED PUMPS, DISCHARGE OF WATER

WAS INCREASED TO 5500 GALLONS PER MINUTE TODAY. THIS WILL BE DOUBLED TOMORROW. THE WATER LEVEL IN THE MINE HAD BEEN REDUCED BY 7.32 METERS WITH THE PUMPING OUT OF SIX MILLION GALLONS OF WATER. THE MINE STILL HAS 61.45 METERS DEEP WATER". THE ARTICLE CONTINUES WITH PUMPING OPERATIONS EXPECTED TO GATHER MOMENTUM WITH INSTALLATION OF SOVIET AND POLISH HIGH CAPACITY PUMPS INCREASING THE WITHDRAWAL RATE TO ABOUT 15,000 GALLONS WHEN THESE PUMPS GO INTO OPERATION. THE ARTICLE QUOTES UNION MINISTER FOR ENERGY AS SAYING "TWO PROBLEMS WERE CREATING DIFFICULTY, SEE PAGE FROM NEARBY COAL MINES AND LIMITED NUMBER OF PLACES THROUGH WHICH WATER COULD BE PUMPED OUT". MR. PRASAD SAID NEARLY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 00072 021442Z

2500 PERSONS WERE ENGAGED IN WORK, OF THEM 1200 WERE POLICEMEN

WHO HAD BEEN DEPLOYED TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER". THE PATRIOT ALSO CARRIED ARTICLE ON FRONT PAGE STATING U.S. HAD DROPPED OUT OF THE PUMP PICTURE AT THE REQUEST OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT. IT QUOTED FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS RELEASE OF JANUARY 1.

3. THE NATIONAL HERALD REPORTS THAT DEWATERING OPERATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO GAIN MOMENTUM WITH THE INSTALLATION OF HIGH CAPACITY PUMPS FLOWN IN FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND POLAND. THEY WOULD INCREASE THE RATE OF DEWATERING OPERATIONS FROM PRESENT 7000 TO 12000 GALLONS PER MINUTE. A TEAM OF 15 RUSSIAN EXPERTS HAD ALSO ARRIVED AT THE COLLIERY TO ASSIST THE RESCUE SQUADS ENGAGED IN PUMPING OPERATIONS. IT GOES ON TO SAY THAT ACCORDING TO "A CALCUTTA REPORT A SPECIAL TRAIN OF SEVEN BOX WAGONS CARRYING 282 STEEL PIPES WAS RUN ON TOP PRIORITY BASIS BY THE SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY TODAY FOR RELIEF OPERATION COLLIERY".

4. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S INDIAN EXPRESS THE WATER LEVEL AT THE FLOODED CHASNALA MINE RECEDED BY 7.23 FEET WITH 11 PUMPS HAVING DISCHARGED 7 MILLION GALLONS". DEWAATERING OPERATIONS WERE TO BE INCREASED TO ABOUT 15,000 GALLONS PER MINUTE OR 13 MILLION GALLONS

PER DAY WHEN RUSSIAN AND POLISH PUMPS WERE JOINTLY PUT IN OPERATION IN ABOUT 3 DAYS TIME. IT ALSO NOTED THAT PUMPS FROM NAGPUR (WESTERN COAL FIELDS) COULD NOT BE USED BECAUSE OF VOLTAGE INCOMPABILITY. ALONG WITH A TEAM OF 15 RUSSIAN EXPERTS AND EQUIPMENT FOUR POLISH PUMPS WITH 1200 GALLON PER CAPACITY ARRIVED AT CHASNOLA TODAY.

5. THE TIMES OF INDIA IN ADDITION TO CREDITING SOVIET AND POLISH EXPERTS ON SCENE AS ACCELERATING DEWATERING OPERATIONS, STATES THAT "THE BIGGEST PROBLEM HAUNTING THE AUTHORITIES NOW IS TO FIND SITES FOR INSTALLING PUMPS ARRIVING FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND PROVIDE NECESSARY POWER TO THEIR OPERATION". AUTHORITIES AT SITE WERE REPORTED TO BE SEARCHING FOR SEVERAL TRANSFORMERS TO BOOST DBZZ POWER NEEDED TO HANDLE THE PUMPS SUPPLIED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND POLAND. THE DAMODAR RIVER, WHICH IS SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER IN AREA WAS ALSO REPORTED BEING CONTAMINATED FROM METHANE BEING DISCHARGED INTO THE RIVER FROM THE DEWATERING OPERATIONS. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO MENTION "THE DEWATERING OPERATION WAS HANDICAPPED WHEN FOUR OF THE EIGHT PUMPS WORKING AROUND THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 00072 021442Z

CLOCK WENT OUT OF ORDER THIS MORNING".

6. CONFUSION STILL PREVAILS IN NEW DELHI'S AND CALCUTTA'S NEWSPAPERS REGARDING THE ARRIVAL OF U.S. PUMPS. BOTH PAPERS MENTION 18 US PUMPS ENROUTE TO CHASNALA FROM PANAGRAH WHICH ARE TO BE INSTALLED IN A DAY OR SO WITH EACH U.S. PUMP HAVING A DEWATERING CAPACITY OF 2500 GALLONS PER MINUTE.

7. UNDER SEPARATE HEADINGS OR WITH OTHER FOREIGN EXPRESSIONS OF
CONDOLENCES ALL THE PAPERS CARRY PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE OF
SYMPATHY TO GOI REGARDING CHASNALA MINE TRAGEDY.
SAXBE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DISASTER RELIEF, MINING INDUSTRY, PUMPS, RESCUE OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE00072
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760001-0315
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760190/aaaadbxx.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUL 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINE DISASTER: PRESS REPORTS
TAGS: ELAB, EMIN, SOPN, IN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006